

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 001657

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [PREL](#) [CG](#)

SUBJECT: STATEMENTS BY CIAT AND THE GDRC ON THE RCD-G'S
DECISION TO SUSPEND PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSITION

REF: KINSHASA 1608

1. (U) The CIAT and the GDRC issued statements concerning the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Goma's (RCD-G) decision to suspend their participation in the institutions of the transitions, except the army. The following are unofficial translations of the statements issued by each entity:

COMMUNIQUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE
TRANSITION (CIAT)

1- The CIAT expresses its sympathy with the feelings of pain and sorrow that afflict the Congolese people following the terrible massacre, which took place in Gatumba on August 13, 2004.

2- Moreover, The CIAT has learned of the declaration made by the Congolese Rally for Democracy - RCD and notes with regret that some of those responsible for this entity have decided to temporally suspend their participation in the Transitional Institutions.

3- The CIAT immediately invites RCD members who have announced suspension of their participation in the Transitional Institutions to retake their respective positions in Kinshasa which is the headquarters of the country's institutions.

4- The CIAT calls on all transition officials and political leaders to encourage dialogue and national reconciliation through their actions and statements. It calls on everyone to abstain from speech or acts which may raise tensions or foment ethnic hatred.

5- The CIAT reiterates that there is no viable alternative to the transition process as laid down in the All Global and Inclusive Accord and the Constitution. The difficulties encountered must find their solutions within the transitional institutions and within the framework of mechanisms set to this effect.

6- The CIAT is composed of five permanent United Nations Security Council members (China, United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, Russia) Belgium, Canada, South Africa, Angola, Gabon, Zambia, the European Union, the African Union and MONUC

Done in Kinshasa August 24, 2004

GOVERNMENT'S COMMUNIQUE TO THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN
KINSHASA IN RELATION TO THE RCD-G'S DECISION TO SUSPEND ITS
PARTICIPATION IN THE DRC TRANSITIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Statement by Robert Mbwinga, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

To begin with, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for having taken time from your numerous occupations to respond to our invitation.

The government has asked me to organize this meeting to inform your excellencies on our position regarding the current path of the transition.

The Transitional Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was surprised about the declaration made in Goma on Tuesday August 24, 2004, by his Excellency Azarias Ruberwa, Vice-President in charge of the Political, Defense and Security Commission, in which he announced that the RCD-G was temporarily pulling out of the transitional institutions. We were surprised not only about the place where the declaration was made, but also about its contents. In effect, Kinshasa, as the headquarters of the country's institutions would have been a more appropriate city to make the declaration than Goma. The latter is remembered as one of the cities where aggression was carried out against our country.

As far as the contents of the Vice-President's declaration is concerned, the Government has noted that the RCD-G decision

to temporarily suspend its participation in the transitional institutions may have been motivated by its claim to evaluate the transition. It appears that the latter claim has been justified on account of the massacre of Congolese people in the Gatumba refugee camp in Burundi. The government reminds everyone that, having denounced this repulsive act, it has called for the setting up of an independent international investigative commission to identify the authors of the massacre, establish responsibilities and bring them to justice. Before this takes place, the Vice-President should refrain from making any speculations or hasty declarations, because this matter is very serious and it should be treated with great caution.

In any case, it is not secret to anyone that the transition process has witnessed several problems since its inception. The Government wants to stress that in all cases, solutions have been found in accordance with the Transitional Constitution and the All Global and Inclusive Accord, as well as within the transitional institutions. These mechanisms have thus far shown their efficiency and as such should not be ignored. No one should look for ways to bring the country back to the starting point and imperil the gains already acquired as well as progress to set up the institutions of the Third Republic. There is no possibility of stopping the transition to evaluate and negotiate outside the institutions defined by the All Global and Inclusive Accord and the Transitional Constitution.

As a reminder, at the end of the transition's first year, an evaluation was carried out by the government through which each commission was called on to report on their activities. Only the Economic and Financial Commission has presented its report, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers. The Commission on Political, Security and Defense Matters, presided over by Vice-President Ruberwa is currently examining reports by ministries under its jurisdiction before presentation to the Council of Ministers. What evaluation then does the RCD need?

Each of you has to remember that at the beginning of this year, the President of the DRC held consultations with all components and entities of the transitional government on whether to revise the All Global and Inclusive Accord and the Constitution. All have unanimously called for the continuation of the transition under its current form. Along the same lines, the presidents of the Senate, the National Assembly and the institutions of support for democracy, expressed their continued support for the transition during a meeting with the President. I would like to call on all of you Ambassadors and Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions to act as interlocutors with your governments and to convey to your governments the firm desire of the Congolese people to pursue the transitional period without stops until the organization of free and transparent elections.

As far as the government is concerned, it will continue to do everything it can in this regard. Additionally, all relevant ministries have been instructed to take all necessary steps to maintain peace and security for the population and citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Ministry of Defense has been specifically charged with safeguarding the apolitical nature of the army who should leave to political actors the responsibility of addressing the current situation.

With regard to politicians and political parties, it is recommended that they avoid all statements that can further aggravate the situation and place the transition in peril. We call on them to work with the government to find a positive and prompt conclusion to this situation.

The government cannot leave out the opportunity to commend the courage of all the RCD members who, on account of their patriotic duty, have decided to remain in Kinshasa and continue their participation in the transition institutions.

Finally, the Government reiterates its recognition to the international community for the laudable and incessant efforts it has displayed for the success of the transition and calls on its vital role to ensure that the RCD comes to its senses and retakes its participation in the institutions of the republic.

Done in Kinshasa
August 25, 2004

Professor Mbwinga Bila
Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs

MEECE